

Imagine...



MORE THAN JUST TRAVEL opportunities, Defiance College's Imagine Initiatives are rooted in specific learning outcomes. Designed and led by faculty and staff, the trips:

INCREASE students' knowledge related to history, geography, economics, the arts, political and social institutions

EXPAND upon material learned in a traditional classroom setting through an experiential initiative

PROVIDE opportunities that encourage development of sensitivity, appreciation, and understanding of American cultures or of different cultures

PROVIDE opportunities that encourage reflection on national and/or world issues

Following are samples of the Imagine Initiatives for the most recent and current academic years.

2013-14 IMAGINE INITIATIVES

DC DOMESTIC

Explore the Arts in Toledo – Several one-day trips to the Stranahan Theater in Toledo will expose students to the arts and theater. Plans are being made for students to attend theater performances of Hello Dolly, War Horse, Stomp, Rock of Ages, Million Dollar Quartet as well as symphony performances of All Rachmaninoff, The Four Seasons, and Carnival of the Animals. All trips are being led by Lois McCullough, vice president for finance and management.

Alternative Spring Break-Civil Rights Tour – Students will be exposed to the literature, music, and documentation relative to the Civil Rights Movement. They will also learn about the unsung heroes of the civil rights movement, equality versus equity, and the culture of the south. The trip will be led by Mercedes Clay, director of intercultural relations.

Social Policy and Practice with Special Populations –

Students with an interest in how social policy and service strategies are influenced and developed at the national level journeyed to Washington, D.C. Students visited and learned how the needs of special populations of veterans, the elderly and victims of domestic violence are advocated for by major national organizations. Further, students learned how meeting those needs through the development of governmental and private programs grow out of both professional and political processes. This trip was led by Jeffrey Weaner, professor of social work and sociology; Alesia Yakos-Brown, associate professor of practice of social work; and Elcin Haskollar, assistant professor and coordinator of global studies.

Imagine Philadelphia – Led by Dr. Don Knueve and Steve Sondergaard, professors of criminal justice, this trip of 25-40 students from Criminal Justice, Digital Forensic Science and Forensic Science will travel to Philadelphia to observe major parts of the criminal justice system in operation in a metropolitan area and to take advantage of cultural and art opportunities. Tours include the Philadelphia Police Department, the Philadelphia Medical Examiner's Office, the Curran-Fromhold Correctional Facility, the Philadelphia Regional Computer Forensics Lab, the Philadelphia Forensic Science Center and the FBI. Also on the agenda are visits to the American Philosophical Society Museum, the Philadelphia Zoo, the Liberty Bell, Museum of Art, and the Philadelphia Regional Port Authority.

DC GLOBAL

Ireland – Our Living Traditions & Enchanting Past - Led by Lois McCullough, vice president for finance and management, and Jenni Morrison, athletic director, students will spend a week in Ireland exploring the cities of Cork and Dublin, visiting University College Cork, walking the Cliffs of Moher, visiting Trinity College and kissing the Blarney Stone. Gain an understanding of the geography, history, climate, food and drink, culture and daily life, sports and music of Ireland by taking this magical trip to Ireland.

Beyond the Falls – A Global Experience in Montreal, Quebec and Ottawa - The provinces of Canada provide an excellent opportunity to encourage our students to be global citizens while providing a low-maintenance travel abroad experience. Students will have the opportunity to experience the cultural influences of the British and French as they travel to Montreal, Quebec and Ottawa. The students will experience the architectural and environmental beauty of Canada. They will be immersed into a city where French is a dominate language yet English is understood by many. The tour also takes them to New York to visit Niagara Falls and the Beaches Resort, a 52-acre turn of the century estate. The trip will be led by Mercedes Clay, director of intercultural relations; Lisa Crumit-Hancock, director of student academic support services; and Rena Rager, administrative assistant for McMaster School.

Paris Choral Festival – Commemorating the 70th Anniversary of D-Day - The DC Chamber Singers have been invited to represent the state of Ohio in performances at the Paris Choral Festival in July 2014. The program is being organized as a commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the D-Day invasion. The choir will be performing in La Madeleine Church in Paris, France, and at a wreath laying ceremony at the American Cemetery at Omaha Beach. The rehearsals and performances will be complemented by cultural trips in Paris and Normandy. Some of the sites to be visited will include: the Arc de Triomphe, Champs Elysees, Eiffel Tower, the Trocadero, Notre Dame Cathedral, Place de la Concorde, the Luxembourg Palace, Latin Quarter, Place de la Bastille, the Louvre museum, Omaha Beach in Normandy, and the Peace Memorial in Caen. The trip is being led by Andrew Schultz, director of music programs, and Dr. Ken Wetstein, vice president for student engagement.

The Jamaica Experience – The Jamaica trip will be a one-week emersion into the culture of the island, led by Craig Rutter, associate professor of exercise science. Students will be placed in homes of host families consisting of teachers and administrators from Marymount High School. Defiance College has enjoyed a close relationship with Marymount since 2000 and, in fact, has welcomed eight students from there onto its campus since 2003. The itinerary for the week will include, but not be limited to, teaching and visiting with classes at Marymount High School and other local schools; worshipping at Bethel United Church; fishing for shrimp with local women and children at Rock River and then sharing a meal of cornmeal porridge cooked at the river; attending youth fellowship at a local church with the assistant counselor from Marymount; visiting Clonmel Pottery and Pringle Home for Children; enjoying an evening of food and traditional song, dance, and recitation of patois poetry at the Christian Service International mission house; and relaxing in the surf of the Caribbean Sea at James Bond Beach.

Honors International Study – The Carolyn M. Small Honors Program offers its members the opportunity to travel internationally each academic year. The trip will be accompanied by an academic course focused on the various aspects of the location chosen for the international trip. The course and the travel will engage students during the spring semester, 2014. The tentative site being explored for spring break 2014 is Italy. Mary Ann Studer, McMaster School dean, and Dr. Jeremy Taylor, assistant professor of history, will be leading this experience.

Service Leaders in Peru – Tentatively, in March 2014, Service Leaders will travel to Peru to engage in service and volunteer experiences. The students will have the opportunity to observe and engage in the culture and participate in service projects that could include: helping children in local orphanages, working in local rural schools, working with special needs children, or promoting eco-tourism in rural areas. This trip will be led by Jessica Myers, director of McMaster Service Leadership Program.

2012-13 IMAGINE INITIATIVES

CULTURAL AND PERFORMING ARTS – ONE DAY TRIPS

Lombardi – Dr. Tim Rickabaugh, professor of exercise science, and Barb Sedlock, metadata and archives librarian, led a trip to the Cleveland Playhouse to see the stage performance Lombardi.

Toledo Museum of Art – Assistant professors of art Jason Stockman and Doug Fiely led students on a visit to the Toledo Museum of Art to view the traveling exhibition of Edouard Manet's work.

Fort Wayne Ballet – Students enjoyed a performance of Tchaikovsky's famous Nutcracker ballet, accompanied by the Fort Wayne Philharmonic Orchestra. The trip was led by Andrew Schultz, director of music programs.

Toledo Symphony Excursion – Schultz also organized a student trip to the Toledo Museum of Art to experience Orff's Carmina Burana. The evening included dinner and a visit from one of the symphony players for a question-and-answer session.

World of Business-Cincinnati – This trip to Cincinnati enabled students to study the local business economy. It was led by business faculty Jay Page, Dr. Mike Wolfe and Dr. Blen Solomon. The group visited Kroger corporate offices, KAO Brands, the Great American Ballpark, and Jungle Jim's.

Dayton Drumline Excursion – Attendees accompanied by Andrew Schultz experienced the Indoor Drumline Dayton Regional Competition and had the opportunity to observe the marching band percussion ensemble working together to create a unique performance.

CULTURAL AND PERFORMING ARTS – MULTI DAY TRIPS

Alternative Spring Break Civil Rights Tour was a detailed journey in which all participants were exposed to the literature, music, and documentation relative to the Civil Rights Movement. The participants learned about the unsung heroes of the movement, equality versus equity, and the culture of the south. The annual trip is led by Mercedes Clay, director of intercultural relations.

Summer Choir Tour 2013 – Andrew Schultz organized and led a ten-day trip traveling west through major US cities to reach the final destination of Denver. The choir performed at schools and churches along the journey and met with DC alumni.

Ann Arbor Film Festival led by Dr. MC Harper, professor of English, and Dr. Todd Comer, associate professor of English, spent two days in Ann Arbor taking in a wide range of films from around the world, attended lectures about film techniques, as well as lectures and discussions with artists and directors.

DC TO D.C. / DC EDVENTURES

Battles in Pennsylvania-The Civil War & 9/11 – Led by Dr. Gregg Gunsch, professor of digital forensic science, and Tim Wedge, assistant professor of practice of digital forensic science, students assisted the High Technology Crime Investigation Association's annual training conference in Hershey, Pa. They also explored some historical sites in the area of the conference including the Gettysburg battlefield and the memorial site of United Airlines Flight 93 on 9/11.

Meet Me in St. Louis – Dr. Ken Wetstein, vice president for student engagement, led a cultural and historical sampling of St. Louis including a trip to the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial (Gateway Arch), the Museum of Westward Expansion, and the Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site, a settlement site of mound-building native cultures.

Criminal Justice, Digital Forensic Science and Forensic Science students traveled to Chicago led by Dr. Don Knueve, professor of criminal justice. Students observed major parts of the criminal justice system in operation in a metropolitan area. They toured agencies such as the Chicago Police Department, the Cook County Jail, the Regional FBI Computer Forensics Lab, the state Crime Lab, and the US Marshal Service.

The Big Apple – Led by President Gordon, students traveled to New York City where they visited the world-class Metropolitan Museum of Art and the American Museum of Natural History. Not to be missed were Central Park, the Statue of Liberty, Wall Street, Chinatown and Little Italy. They also took in a Broadway musical and visited numerous other sites. The group had the opportunity to meet with the owner of the World Trade Center who spoke movingly about 9/11.

DC GLOBAL

DC Paris Cultural Connection provided DC students with an international experience that engaged them in developing competencies in intercultural relations, communications, and sensitivity. The Paris adventure was led by Mercedes Clay, director of intercultural relations, and Dr. Sandra Golden, associate professor of education.

London Heroes & Heroines led by Dr. JoAnn Burkhardt, professor of education, and Dr. Fred Coulter, associate professor of education, used public transportation in London to visit museums and historic sights and spent an evening at the theatre.

Spain – Members of the DC women's soccer team under the leadership of head coach Alex VanderSluijs traveled to Spain for a great cultural experience visiting Madrid and Barcelona. They made stops at some of the most famous stadiums in the soccer world.